

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 11-13 and AMEND claims 1, 9 and 10 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for directing a computer system to support a trade of securities, the method comprising:

storing a record of a public offering of a new set of securities, the record containing a suggested offering price of the securities and a subscription period of the public offering;

processing electronically and without manual intervention in a computer system buying and selling orders for the securities in a secondary market;

identifying electronically and without manual intervention a trade price at which the buying and selling orders have been executed in the secondary market;

determining electronically and without manual intervention whether the identified trade price is below the suggested offering price;

checking electronically and without manual intervention whether the present date and time ~~is~~are within the subscription period;

placing electronically and without manual intervention a buying order in a computer system at the suggested offering price, when said determining has revealed that the trade price is below the suggested offering price, and only when said checking has determined that the present date and time ~~is~~are within the subscription period; and

repetitively placing electronically and without manual intervention an additional buying order for a predetermined quantity at the suggested offering price at predetermined intervals, after the buying order has been placed.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying of the trade price identifies an opening price of the securities that has been reached in an opening session.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein said placing of the buying order obtains a cumulative sum of pending offers whose prices are equal to or lower than the suggested offering price, and places a buying order at the suggested offering price in an attempt to purchase as many securities as the obtained cumulative sum of the pending offers, if the opening price is lower than the suggested offering price.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein said placing of the buying order obtains a cumulative sum of pending bids whose prices are equal to or higher than the suggested offering price, and places a selling order at the suggested offering price in an attempt to sell as many securities as the obtained cumulative sum of the pending bids, if the opening price is higher than the suggested offering price.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the suggested offering price is given as an allowable range of prices between a minimum price and a maximum price as designated in a prospectus; and

wherein said placing places the buying order at a predetermined price in accordance with an average price of the securities.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said placing places the buying order, while controlling a total number of offered securities, so as not to exceed a number of new securities for sale in the public offering.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said placing places the buying order, while controlling a total number of offered securities, so as not to exceed a number of existing securities and new securities for sale in the public offering.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for supporting a trade of securities, comprising:
storage means for storing a record of a public offering of a new set of securities, the record containing a suggested offering price of the securities and a subscription period of the public offering;

trade processing means for processing electronically and without manual intervention buying and selling orders for the securities in a secondary market;

trade price acquisition means for identifying electronically and without manual intervention a trade price at which the buying and selling orders have been executed in the secondary market;

price evaluation means for determining electronically and without manual intervention whether the identified trade price is below the suggested offering price;

subscription period checking means for checking electronically and without manual intervention whether the present date and time ~~is~~are within the subscription period; and

trading order placement means for placing electronically and without manual intervention a buying order at the suggested offering price, when said price evaluation means has found that the trade price is below the suggested offering price, and only when said subscription period checking means has determined that the present date and time ~~is~~are within the subscription period; and for repetitively placing electronically and without manual intervention an additional buying order for a predetermined quantity at the suggested offering price at predetermined intervals.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program for supporting a trade of securities, the program causing a computer system to function as:

storage means for storing a record of a public offering of a new set of securities, the record containing a suggested offering price of the securities and a subscription period of the public offering;

trade processing means for processing electronically and without manual intervention buying and selling orders for the securities in a secondary market;

trade price acquisition means for identifying electronically and without manual intervention a trade price at which the buying and selling orders have been executed in the secondary market;

price evaluation means for determining electronically and without manual intervention whether the identified trade price is below the suggested offering price;

subscription period checking means for checking electronically and without manual intervention whether the present date and time ~~is~~are within the subscription period; and

trading order placement means for placing electronically and without manual intervention a buying order at the suggested offering price, when said price evaluation means has found that the trade price is below the suggested offering price, and only when said subscription period checking means has determined that the present date and time ~~is~~are within the subscription period, and

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for repetitively placing electronically and without manual intervention an additional buying order for a predetermined quantity at the suggested offering price at predetermined intervals.

Claims 11-13 (Cancelled).